Docket No. AUS920010403US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**METHOD AND APPARATUS TO ENCOURAGE CLIENT INTO A
DISTRIBUTED PEER TO PEER SHARING TECHNOLOGY**

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A method, program and system to provide incentives
for client machines to contribute resources to a
peer-to-peer computer network are provided. When a
server receives requests for information from a plurality
10 of client machines, it determines if the client machines
are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing. When
answering requests, clients which contribute resources to
peer-to-peer sharing are given priority over client which
do not contribute. In another embodiment of the present
15 invention, a further incentive is provided to clients
which contribute to peer-to-peer sharing, by giving
higher priority to client requests in proportion to the
level of resources contributed.